



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: December, 1994

133 S. Fitzhugh St.

YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

Covert-Brodie-Pollok House

1. BUILDING NAME(S): _____
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 978 North Greece Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Helen K. Pollok ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14626
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☒ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other rear wing-fieldstone
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation - coursed & random & clapboard.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐ fieldstone.
b. wood frame with light members ☐
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"Note the distinctive detailing : cut stone quoins, iron grilles. Well, this is certainly a 'red.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☒ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous & coniferous trees/shrubs
j. other: cast iron pump to S. of house; stone barn foundation
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary): to N.E. of house.
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1832

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farmhouse; cobblestone architecture.

11c.

One-story, shed-roofed, open porch on the south elevation (rear wing) has been enclosed, (mid/late-1900s).

Two early/mid-20th-century brick chimneys have been added to the rear wings of the house.

The one-story, shed-roofed, attached garage has been added to the east elevation, mid-1900s.

The rear (east) one-story section of the house has evolved over time. In 1840 it was a carriage shed; in 1914 it was a summer kitchen; from 1914 - 1945 it was used as a woodshed and storage; in 1945 it was converted into the present kitchen.

A contemporary, wood-and-metal, exterior stairs has been added to the north elevation of the house, at the junction of the main, two-story block and the rear (east) one-story wing (c. 1970s-80s).

The original 6/6, double-hung windows on the facade, as well as the first story of the north and south elevations, have been replaced with 1/1, double-hung sash (early/mid-1900s).

17. The Covert-Brodie-Pollok House is located on a 14.95-acre site on the east side of North Greece Road in the southwest quadrant of the town. A driveway is located to the south of the house and leads to the non-contributing, contemporary, attached garage at the rear of the house. A 14-acre expanse of lawn surrounds the house on the north, east, and south. The site is landscaped with a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. To the northeast of the property, near Mill Road, is a stone barn foundation (not part of this parcel) that was originally part of this site. The surrounding neighborhood is composed of mostly post-World War II housing.

18. The Covert-Brodie-Pollok House is composed of a two-story, side-gabled, main block with a one-story, gable-roofed wing to the east (rear). The main block is four-bays-wide by two-bays-deep. The one-story east wing is one-bay-wide by three-bays-deep. The house has 18-inch-thick cobblestone walls on the north, west, and south elevations of the main, 2-story block. The east elevation of the main, 2-story block

18. continued

and the north, east, and south elevations of the rear (east) one-story wing are of fieldstone construction. A former one-story, open porch on the south elevation of the rear wing has been enclosed and clad with wood clapboard siding (the interior, south wall was removed to create additional space). A one-story, shed-roofed garage is attached to the east (rear) elevation.

The block massing and classical detailing of the house, which includes cornice returns, a wide frieze band, decorative grilles and Doric porch columns, are features associated with the Greek Revival style.

The main, two-story block is set on a foundation of coursed, cut stone. The rear (east), one-story cobblestone wing (with enclosed porch) is set on a foundation of fieldstone. Corbelled, brick chimneys are located on the north and south gables of the main block. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical with a combination of 6/6, double-hung windows (early/mid-1800s) and 1/1, double-hung windows (early 1900s). The facade windows have limestone lintels and sills; the windows on the north and south elevation (main block) have stone sills and wood lintels. Several, small, rectangular windows are located in the north, west, and east foundation walls of the main block. Three contemporary windows have been added to the south elevation of the one-story, rear wing.

At the four corners of the main, two-story block are square, cut stone quoins. The facade has a stone watertable between the foundation and the upper cobblestone wall.

Under the low-pitched, gabled roof is a wide, Greek Revival style cornice and gable-end returns. Four frieze windows with decorative iron grilles are located in the facade cornice, just under the eaves.

Located on the facade, the main, center entrance includes the original front door (center panel has been removed), flanked by two, rectangular sidelights (with 19th-century glass) and two pilasters with Doric capitals. Above the door is the entablature with three, solid wood panels. The front entrance includes a one-story, gable-roofed entrance porch (original to the design of the house) with square columns (Doric capitals) and a closed pediment. The entrance porch sits on a cobblestone foundation.

18. continued

The one-story, rear (east) wing has a gable roof and a narrow cornice. It does not have the Greek Revival detailing present in the main, two-story block. The open porch on the south elevation of this wing has been enclosed. The former, shed-roofed porch is clad with wood clapboard siding and sits atop a fieldstone foundation. An exterior door with contemporary wrought iron handrailing and steps is located in the center of the south elevation.

In Carl Schmidt's book, Cobblestone Masonry, he describes the cobblestone masonry of this house. "The cobblestones are mostly shades of brown, yellow and gray, with only a few red sandstone, all of the water-rounded variety laid six courses per quoin height. They vary from one-and-one-quarter to one-and-one-half inches in diameter, and ovals from one-and-one-quarter to one-and-one-half inches in height and from two to three-and-one-half inches in length, with scattered stones four to five inches long, which are all laid horizontally. This emphasizes the horizontal character of the stone courses. The horizontal joints are formed in a straight 'V,' which varies from one-half to three-quarters-inch wide. Most of the vertical joints are enriched with 'V's' or triangular pyramids."

"On the south wall, the cobblestones are a little larger, these are five courses per quoin height. The rear wall and wing are ashlar masonry of red sandstone blocks."

"Corner quoins are gray limestone blocks about twelve inches high, fifteen inches long, and six inches thick. A four-inch wide limestone water table, extends across the front, twenty-eight inches above the grade. On the front elevation the window openings have stone sills and lintels, and on the end elevations they have timber lintels and stone sills."

The one-story, shed-roofed garage addition on the east elevation of the rear wing is of frame construction.

The interior of the house includes a living room, dining room, burning room, kitchen, enclosed porch and bedrooms. A first floor bathroom was created in 1945 in the former keeping room; it retains the original door and casement (which led from the living room into this room).

The present living room was previously divided into two rooms: a living room and a dining room. An archway was

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removed to create a single, larger room. An identical archway is intact between this living room and the burning room.

The present dining room was previously two smaller rooms that were combined into this larger room. An unused doorway in the dining room has been converted into a stone wall cupboard by the present owner.

On the south elevation of the rear, one-story wing, the open porch was enclosed with wood clapboard siding. Part of the original south wall of this wing was removed to create a larger interior room here.

As noted in 11c., the kitchen area has had three previous uses. In 1840 it was a carriage shed; by 1914 it was a summer kitchen; from 1914-1945 it was used as a woodshed and storage; in 1945 it was converted into the main kitchen. The fireplace in the kitchen is of fieldstone and has beams from the original barn on the property.

Additional information about the interior and its historic furnishings is included in the attachments.

The large, 14-acre lot is immaculately maintained by Bill Pollok. The entire site is composed of well-tended lawn landscaped with mature trees and shrubs, and an orchard to the north. To the rear (east) of the house is a cobblestone well.

20. The Covert-Brodie-Pollok House is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of an early-19th-century, Greek Revival cobblestone farmhouse retaining a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and craftsmanship. It is one of four extant cobblestone buildings in the town of Greece (two of which are on North Greece Road). The farmstead is historically significant as well for its long association with the Covert and Brodie families. The Coverts were early settlers/farmers and the builders of this house. The Brodie family, also farmers, has owned the house since 1914.

The house was built in 1832 by William Covert. Covert purchased this property in 1810 and owned it until 1840. The Coverts were early 19th-century settlers in the North Greece area. It is reported that Joshua Covert built, with

20. continued

his brothers, several cobblestone houses on North Greece Road. Joshua's brothers are listed as James and Mathias. This house at #978 North Greece Road is said to have been one of these Joshua Covert-built homes (it is stated that he also resided here). Information about the Coverts and their involvement with this house, however, is not consistent. The present owner of the house states that William H. Covert purchased this property in 1810 and owned it until 1840 (there is no mention of Joshua, James or Mathias Covert in the owner's information).

From 1840-1850, the property was owned by Amos Trowell. In May 1850, Joshua B. Covert bought this property and continued as owner until 1884, when William F. Covert acquired the property.

The 1852 map shows this property with a building (the present house); it is owned by J.B. Covert. Mill Road did not yet extend as far west as North Greece Road. The 1872 county map shows this site as lot 9; a building is shown and W.R. Covert is listed as owner.

In 1895, Elmer E. Burlingame acquired this property, which he sold in 1897 to Ida B. Harris. In 1898, it was purchased by Eleanor L. Henion, who sold it to Edward L. Harris in 1901. The 1902 county map shows this property as a 125-acre parcel owned by George L. Harris and marked "Harris Stock Farm." There are three buildings on the property; the present house and two additional buildings (one of these buildings might be the barn, whose stone foundation is presently northeast of the house). Podunk Road (the present Mill Road) forms the northern boundary of the property.

In 1905, Harris sold the property to George W. Emerson. In 1911, the property was purchased by Louis Zagata, who sold it to Kazamiera Brodowszynski in 1914. The 1924 county map shows this property as a 51.5-acre parcel with "W. Bradonezynski" (sic) as owner. Larkin Creek cuts across the southeast corner of the property.

During the 1920s, Mr. Brodowszynski changed his last name to "Brodie." The 1930 suburban directory lists Walter and Catherine Brodey (sic) at this address; he is listed as a farmer. The correct spelling of this last name is "Brodie." The Brodies' daughter, Helen, purchased this property from her mother, after her father's death, in 1946.

20. continued

The 1959 county map shows this property as a 26.45-acre parcel owned by H. E. Zielinski" (mis-spelled Helen Brodie Pollok's last name; appears to have been based on the original 1914 spelling of the family's last name). The parcel is marked as "Geo. W. Emerson Farms." The house is shown with its main, two-story stone block and a frame rear wing.

Helen Brodie Pollok and her husband, William Pollok continue to reside here today. Mrs. Pollok has lived in this house her entire life.

The Covert-Brodie-Pollok House is architecturally significant as an outstanding, intact example of the cobblestone method of construction in New York State. This cobblestone farmhouse property may be eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of cobblestone construction in its use of lake-washed cobbles laid in horizontal rows and bonded with limestone mortar, the use of stone quoins to decorate and stabilize the corners of the building, and the use of stone sills and lintels at door and window openings. Typical Middle Period (c. 1835- c. 1845) of cobblestone construction, the house features water-rounded stones of various shapes, sizes, and colors. The horizontal joints are V-shaped.

The farmhouse is additionally significant as a representative example of early-19th-century Greek Revival, rural domestic architecture in the town of Greece. Greek Revival was the dominant style of American domestic architecture during the interval from about 1830-1850, during which its popularity led it to be called the National Style.

The cobblestone buildings of New York State resulted from the adaptation of prevailing masonry construction technology to a special building material commonly found in Central and Western New York at the time of its settlement and early development.

Cobblestones were shaped and deposited in this part of the state by glaciers at the time of the Last Ice Age, and were readily collected as a building material by settlers who were clearing land and preparing fields for planting. Cobblestone architecture developed in the late 1820s, reached its peak in

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popularity in the 1830s and '40s, and continued at a lesser pace through the 1860s, after which time it became an outdated technique used only sporadically for repairs or additions to earlier cobblestone structures.

21. See final report for bibliography; site visit & written information from Helen and William Pollok, 10/1995.

CAP TO
LARGE
PILASTERS
SECTION "A"

COBBLESTONE "F"
WALL

CAPS
TO SMALL
PILASTERS
SECTION "C"

PANEL HAS
BEEN
REMOVED

ARCHITRAVE
SECTION
"B"

ENTIRE PLATFORM
IS MODERN.

SIDELIGHT SILL
SECTION "E"

ELEVATION
SCALE 1" = 1'-0"

SECT. "F"

FACIA 3 1/2"

COVE MOULD
SECTION "D"

MAIN ENTRANCE TO HOUSE
ON THE NORTH GREECE ROAD
MONROE COUNTY

MRS. HELEN ZIELINSKI PRESENT OWNER *CR.*

LIVING ROOM

This spacious room, once two rooms, a dining room and living room, An archway was removed from the center and was identical to the one separating the living room from the burning room.

- 1 There were no fireplaces in this home, Chun~~ck~~ stoves and Pot Belly stoves were used.
- 2 The solid cherry wood mantle.
 - (a) Samari sword obtained by Mr Pollok from a Japanese Captain on Okinawa.
 - (b) Dresden dolls.
 - (c) Mantle clock
 - (d) Bust of Indian- One of settlers of Greece.
 - (e) Copper bed warmer and brass accessories.
- 3 Original Queens Anne~~s~~ chair.
- 4 Original swivel smoke stand.
- 5 Solid cherry drop leaf table- Original- Made from a cherry tree across the road.
- 6 Tiffany brass lanp.
- 7 Original rabbit ear chairs.
- 8 Original antique corner table and Tiffany lamp belonging to Kay grandmother.
- 9 Original ladies rocker.
- 10 What-not shelf that belonged to Mr Pollok's grandmother.
- 11 The front entrance is original. The door was known as a funeral door due to its size. The glass in the side window lights are original--bubbles and cracks can be seen in the glass.
- 12 Replicas of colored glass
 - (a) Original Cranberry glass vase.
 - (b) Green wink light
 - (c) Blue vase
 - (d) Amber oil lamp
 - (e) Two-tone candy dish.

DINING ROOM

In leaving the kitchen, we enter the ^aspacious dining area, at one time 2 rooms, Mud room separated by a wall that had two entrances that led into the kitchen.

- 1 The Dining furniture belonged to Kays' parents, made in
2 1930.

Tiffany light over the Dining table ^{was} once a gas light.

Oil lamps on window sills are original and were in use by the Brodies before electricity came along in 1923.

Once a doorway seldom used was converted by Kay into this Stone Wall Cupboard.

First to display the inside wall of the house, note the 18-inch thickness of the wall, which ~~was~~ ^{was} built in 2-foot layers divided by wood planks. ^{was}

It took 3 years to build this home.

Secondly, to display a complete service of ^{H.V.} Highland china service for 12. Partly painted by Mary Pollok in 1896, Also Bavarian serving pieces.

The Curio holds cut glass and some pressed glass also a few crystal pieces.

KEEPING ROOM

In the mid-^{1800's}~~eighteen hundreds~~ and early-^{1900's}~~nineteen hundreds~~, a deceased member of the family was held at the residence until the funeral. A cool room was chosen just for this purpose and called the (Keeping Room), which was not used for any other purpose.

To eliminate the Keeping room a change took place in 1945.

A bathroom downstairs.

The original door and casement came from the living room, which once led to the Keeping room.

KITCHEN

The kitchen has served in four different capacities^{ed} until now.

In 1840 A carriage shed

1914 A summer kitchen

1914 to 1945 used as a woodshed & storage

1945 as the Main kitchen

Points of interest.

Meat Block--Brodie's Market--Grandparents

Apple Peeler dated 1898

Salt box

Mother of Pearl Canister set (complete)

Plates--Early Del^{pt} ---Late Del^{pt}

Fire Place

Fieldstone

Beams from original barn

Sword

1914 Sword (Knights of Columbus) - Brodies' Wedding

PORCH

Another change took place here by enclosing an open porch and removing a wall to give more space.

- 1 The roll top desk is an original that once belonged to a man that owned 50% of Jello stock.
- 2 Mr Pollok is a veteran of World War 2 and has some of his war souvenirs on display.
 - (a) Japanese rifle with bayonet.
 - (b) Japanese medals--Large one with red stone comparable to our Congretional medal of honor.
 - (c) Phillipino Bolo knife.
 - (d) German swords were a gift to Mr Pollok.
- 3 Mr Pollok travels a lot in his business --Note pictures with Bess Myerson and Secretary of the Treasury, William Miller, Others noteworthy in these pictures are Jack Dempsay and Carmen Basilio.
- 4 Original antique crank phone.
- 5 Note the old hand saw that was never put to rest and now displayed by an oil painting on one surface.



